



WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, Lydney, Newent & West Dean Rural Districts)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

A. T. HUNT

M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

for the year

1968

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(MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH) COMMITTEE

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UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, Lydney, Newent & West Dean Rural Districts)

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of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1968

DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE,
COLEFORD, GLOS. GL16 8HF.

Telephone : Coleford 3364/5

Residence : St. Briavels 284

To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural District Councils of the West Gloucestershire United District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1968. This Report is a Statutory requirement placed upon me by the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959. As a matter of courtesy the Surveyors and Housing Officers gave me reports for inclusion as usual, which makes the Report a more complete record of the public health functions of the District Councils.

The Vital Statistics are based on the figures supplied by the Registrar General. The numbers for deaths of infants or of still births are too small to work out rates for the Districts. The table of causes of deaths is that of the International Classification.

The number of persons dying of cancer of the bronchus and lung reached a record of 45 ; this is part of the National epidemic related to the widespread habit of cigarette smoking. A man of forty who smokes 21 cigarettes a day will, on the average, live six years less than a non-smoker. This is a summation of the increased risk that a cigarette smoker has of lung cancer, coronary thrombosis, bronchitis and other effects. I regret that such a cause of ill health is so intensively advertised; in the catalogues of presents given for cigarette coupons no mention is made of the above diseases. The public is not realistically warned.

The value of this Report depends so much on its early publication. As in previous years I have asked for the contributions to be made early in order that they could be checked and, where necessary, re-typed to be ready for the Printers by the end of March, so that when the Statistics were received from the Registrar General these could be incorporated and the Report published without delay. I am appending the dates of the receipt of the contributions so that it can be seen where the delay lies. I regret that the value of the reports that I received early have been reduced by the lateness of others, and I find the waste of time of repeated requests for these contributions most disheartening.

I am grateful to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your co-operation and understanding. I thank the Public Health Inspectors for their co-operation during the year. I have also to thank the Printers for their care and my Clerk, Miss Eleanor M. H. Hughes, for her careful work in assisting me to compile this Report and for her accurate work throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HUNT.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates

				<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
England and Wales	....	....	....	16.9	11.9
Gloucestershire	....	....	....	17.4	10.4
Combined Forest Area	....	....	....	15.6 (16.7)	12.2 (12.6)
East Dean	....	....	....	16.5 (17.2)	12.4 (13.0)
Lydney R.D.	....	....	....	14.3 (16.3)	10.3 (11.5)
Newent R.D.	....	....	....	13.7 (15.1)	9.4 (9.1)
West Dean	....	....	....	16.7 (17.4)	15.1 (14.8)

The Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population ; the Death Rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 population. The figures in brackets are the adjusted rates which are obtained by multiplying the crude rate by the appropriate comparability factor issued by the Registrar General.

There was one death associated with childbirth.

There were 22 deaths during the first year of life (12 male and 10 female) ; of these 13 were during the first week, 3 were from the end of the first week to the end of the fourth week and 6 were from the end of the fourth week to the end of the first year.

Numbers of Births and Deaths

			<i>Estimated Population (mid 1968)</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Excess of Births over Deaths</i>
East Dean	....	....	21,130	348	261	87
Lydney R.D.	....	....	14,440	206	149	57
Newent R.D.	....	....	9,680	133	91	42
West Dean	....	....	17,670	295	266	29
Total Area	....	....	62,920	982	767	215

Chief Causes of Death

					<i>Percentage of total deaths</i>
Ischaemic heart disease	....	....	....	....	25.7
Other heart disease	....	....	....	....	6.4
Other circulatory disease	....	....	....	....	3.1
Cerebrovascular disease	....	....	....	....	11.7
Malignant disease	....	....	....	....	19.5
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	6.2
Bronchitis and emphysema	....	....	....	....	5.7
Accidents	....	....	....	....	3.0

Code	CAUSES OF DEATH	Total Area		
		Total	Male	Fem.
B5	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	4	4	—
B6	Other tuberculosis, including late effects	1	1	—
B19 (1)	Malignant neoplasm—stomach ...	11	9	2
B19 (2)	Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus ...	45	38	7
B19 (3)	Malignant neoplasm—breast ...	12	—	12
B19 (4)	Malignant neoplasm—uterus ...	8	—	8
B19 (5)	Leukaemia ...	8	5	3
B19 (6)	Other malignant neoplasms, etc. ...	66	29	37
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	1	—	1
B21	Diabetes mellitus ...	5	—	5
B46 (1)	Other endocrine, etc., diseases ...	2	1	1
B23	Anaemias ...	4	—	4
B46 (3)	Mental disorders ...	1	—	1
B24	Meningitis ...	1	—	1
B46 (4)	Other diseases of the nervous system, etc. ...	8	2	6
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	10	4	6
B27	Hypertensive disease ...	19	10	9
B28	Ischaemic heart disease ...	198	120	78
B29	Other forms of heart disease ...	49	20	29
B30	Cerebrovascular disease ...	88	33	55
B46 (5)	Other diseases of circulatory system ...	24	9	15
B31	Influenza ...	8	3	5
B32	Pneumonia ...	48	26	22
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and emphysema ...	44	29	15
B33 (2)	Asthma ...	3	2	1
B46 (6)	Other diseases of the respiratory system ...	7	3	4
B34	Peptic ulcer ...	2	—	2
B35	Appendicitis ...	1	—	1
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	7	6	1
B37	Cirrhosis of liver ...	5	3	2
B46 (7)	Other diseases of digestive system ...	4	3	1
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	4	4	—
B46 (8)	Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	8	3	5
B41	Other complications of pregnancy, etc. ...	1	—	1
B46 (10)	Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	6	2	4
B42	Congenital anomalies ...	5	2	3
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ...	9	6	3
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality ...	3	—	3
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions ...	4	—	4
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents ...	7	6	1
BE48	All other accidents ...	16	8	8
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	6	4	2
BE50	All other external causes ...	4	3	1
	TOTALS ...	767	398	369

East Dean		Lydney		Newent		West Dean		Code
Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	
2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	B5
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	B6
4	-	1	1	-	-	4	1	B19 (1)
9	2	6	2	9	-	14	3	B19 (2)
-	1	-	7	-	2	-	2	B19 (3)
-	-	-	4	-	2	-	2	B19 (4)
1	1	1	-	-	1	3	1	B19 (5)
7	12	9	5	3	6	10	14	B19 (6)
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	B20
-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	B21
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	B46 (1)
-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	B23
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	B46 (3)
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	B24
1	3	-	1	-	-	1	2	B46 (4)
2	3	-	-	1	3	1	-	B26
3	3	3	3	1	1	3	2	B27
36	21	19	21	13	2	52	34	B28
7	11	3	10	5	1	5	7	B29
16	20	3	8	1	8	13	19	B30
2	4	2	4	2	5	3	2	B46 (5)
-	-	-	2	-	-	3	3	B31
15	10	1	1	3	2	7	9	B32
9	5	7	2	2	3	11	5	B33 (1)
-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	B33 (2)
2	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	B46 (6)
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	B34
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	B35
3	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	B36
2	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	B37
2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	B46 (7)
1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	B39
1	3	-	1	1	1	1	-	B46 (8)
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	B41
1	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	B46 (10)
-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	B42
4	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	B43
-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	B44
-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	B45
2	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	BE47
1	3	3	3	3	-	1	2	BE48
-	1	2	-	1	-	1	1	BE49
2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	BE50
136	125	68	81	51	40	143	123	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Scarlet Fever

Twenty-eight cases were notified, ten in East Dean, ten in Lydney and eight in West Dean. Eight of these occurred in the first quarter, fourteen in the second quarter. These were widely distributed.

Measles

Three hundred and thirty-nine notifications were received as follows:

				East Dean	Lydney	Newent	West Dean	Total
1st Quarter	...	...		41	1	11	3	56
2nd Quarter	...	...		93	—	21	2	116
3rd Quarter	...	...		22	17	58	59	156
4th Quarter	...	...		—	10	1	—	11
TOTALS	...	...	...	156	28	91	64	339

Vaccination against this disease commenced in May and by the end of the year 931 children had been vaccinated.

Whooping Cough

Only seven notifications were received, three in Cinderford, three at Tibberton and one at Newent.

Food Poisoning

A number of cases of diarrhoea were investigated during the year.

In March, four children at Newent became sick and had diarrhoea soon after eating cooked ham. No notifications were received and no food poisoning organisms were found in the ham, but the Laboratory reported that, "the count is high and this might itself have upset the children."

In August, a number of children on holiday in Cinderford had an outbreak of vomiting. The group had gone on a bus journey the previous day and had taken sandwiches including some containing tinned meat. At the same time the large number of flies from the low lying ground, with sheep wandering at large, could have been incriminated.

Two people blamed meat spread for an attack of vomiting in September, but were so late informing the Department that investigations were not definite.

In September, two girls on holiday vomited after taking meat pies on a day's walking.

In September also, there were a number of cases of vomiting at one school, but these were not related to any meal.

Tuberculosis

Notifications during the year :

			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
Lydney	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
Newent	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
West Dean	...	...	2	1	—	—	3
TOTALS	...	...	9	1	—	—	10

Apart from a primary infection in a girl of five, the other cases notified were all men. One was a man in his thirties, two in their fifties, two in their sixties, three in their seventies and one in his eighties.

The numbers of cases on the Registers are as follows and show a progressive reduction year by year :

			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean	...	...	51	26	4	10	91
Lydney	...	...	22	11	2	3	38
Newent	...	...	9	2	1	1	13
West Dean	...	...	50	19	9	5	83
TOTALS	...	...	132	58	16	19	225

GENERAL ITEMS

Water Supplies

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board supplies water to the whole of the Area except the Parish of Tidenham which is supplied by the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board, and certain properties at Bromsberrow, Dymock and Redmarley, which receive a compensatory supply from the Malvern Urban District Council.

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board's Officers did routine sampling of the sources and of the water supplied. I received copies of the reports of the Board's Chemist totalling 637 bacteriological examinations, of which 284 were from taps on the supply, and 192 chemical analyses. Of the samples of the water as supplied only a few were not entirely satisfactory and these were quickly followed up.

By contrast to this wealth of information from the Board's Chemist on the quality of the water, I was not able to be satisfied that the clinical histories of water workers, particularly with reference to any infection capable of being water-borne, were thoroughly investigated as

recommended by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, or that employees were satisfactorily screened after absence from work. All mains water supplies are satisfactorily chlorinated, but recognition must still be made of the danger of water-borne infections.

At the same time, with the elaboration of chemical industry and the greater use of pesticides, the danger of chemical pollution of river water used for drinking has increased, and such sources are exposed to the risk of chemical pollution that may evade detection.

Berkeley and Oldbury Nuclear Power Stations

The Environmental Monitoring of the area around the Stations continued to be carried out for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and copies of the two reports were received.

The gamma radiation dose rate continued to be a little raised at the half mile radius from the Berkeley Station, compared with what they were before the Station came into operation and with those of the surrounding countryside. The rates at this distance from the Oldbury Station did not show any rise, although power raising had commenced in September, 1967.

The other examinations showed similar results (although those of fish, except salmon, were a little raised).

The discharges of liquid radioactive waste were well within the authorised limits.

Two meetings of the Liaison Committee were held at which the operation of the Stations was explained.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

Several old people were kept under surveillance. It became necessary to take action under the Amendment Act to obtain Magistrates Orders for the removal of an old lady and her incapable daughter (Newent R.D.), an aged man (Lydney R.D.) and an aged man (East Dean R.D.). The man in the Lydney Rural District died, as expected, soon after removal, the man in East Dean also died soon after removal although I did not expect this. Another aged man in the East Dean Rural District was persuaded to enter an Old Persons Home.

The decision to ask a Magistrate for an Order is only made after a great deal of deliberation. The attendance of a home help sometimes makes the obtaining of an Order impossible. and in many cases makes removal unnecessary. The obtaining of a Court Order by the Council was found to involve too much delay to be practicable.

Brucellosis

The routine sampling of milk continued to be done by the sampling officers of the County Health Department. Amongst the examinations done was that of raw milk (to be sold for retail) for brucellosis. The only case of this infection which came to my notice, however, was of a man who drank only pasteurised milk, but had handled "slipped" calves obtained to feed his dogs and probably was infected from these through his skin.

Salmonellosis in Cattle

The occurrence of this infection in cattle is notified to the District Council Medical Officer of Health by the Divisional Veterinary Officer. The occurrence was notified at two farms, both were in calves, in the last quarter of the year. Both had had the infection in calves the previous year and had taken precautions with regard to disinfection, and I presume that the infection was introduced again by feeding stuffs. In one case no new animals were bought into the herd.

Public Health Laboratories

The Newport Laboratory continues to be the one normally used. The Director, Dr. R. D. Gray, and his staff have given excellent service over a number of years.

The Public Health Laboratory at Gloucester, under Dr. A. E. Wright, is used for the eastern part of my Area.

Analyst

The University of Bristol Analyst, who is the County Analyst, is the one normally used.

Notification of Infectious Disease

The Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968, and the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1968, altered the list of diseases that are notifiable from the 1st October.

These are :

Acute encephalitis	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Acute meningitis	Paratyphoid fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Plague
Anthrax	Relapsing fever
Cholera	Scarlet fever
Diphtheria	Smallpox
Dysentery (amoebic or bacillary)	Tetanus
Infective jaundice	Tuberculosis
Leprosy	Typhoid fever
Leptospirosis	Typhus
Malaria	Whooping cough
Measles	Yellow fever

All forms of acute meningitis are now notifiable.

Infective jaundice was made notifiable as from the 15th June, although it was then known that it was to be included in these Regulations, because it was thought that this might bring to light cases of homologous serum jaundice due to drug addicts sharing syringes.

Leptospirosis includes especially Weil's disease from the urine of rats (sometimes of cats, dogs and mice), either by ingestion or through abrasions of the skin, and canicola fever from the urine of infected dogs (rarely pigs).

Ophthalmia neonatorum is now notifiable to me instead of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Tetanus is now notifiable, no doubt to intensify immunisation where cases occur.

Food Poisoning remains notifiable. Schedule 5 of the Regulations enables action to be taken to stop a person suffering from, or is a carrier of typhoid, paratyphoid or other salmonella infections, amoebic or bacillary dysentery or a staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning, from infecting food.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in any of the Districts.

Anthrax Order, 1938

No notification was received under this Order of any infection in an animal.

Dates in 1969 of receipt of completed contributions

February : Mr. Peart (3rd), Mr. Luker (18th), Mr. Spratt (21st).
March : Mr. Andrews (4th), Mr. Huband (11th), Mr. Jenkinson (21st).
April : Mr. Bebb and Mr. Parks (21st).
June : Mr. Richards (11th).
July : Mr. Parsons (16th).

Housing by the Councils

Apart from 48 houses built by the West Dean Rural District Council, the outstanding events were the construction of two groups of 21 old persons bungalows, one at Cinderford and one at Newent, together with warden accommodation.

Housing Priority on Medical Grounds

My colleague in the South of the County drew up a form for use when an applicant requests a medical certificate to support his or her housing application.

The Local Medical Committee welcomed this form and were of the opinion that it should be extended to the whole of the County. This has to be obtained from the appropriate housing officer by the applicant, taken to the doctor who in turn posts it to me. The doctor's assessment of urgency is then passed to the housing officer and, in the cases of the Lydney and Newent Rural District Councils, who operate a points scheme, a recommendation of the points to be allocated is made. The East Dean Rural District Council also uses these recommendations. This system works very well and has the advantage of bringing a number of bad housing conditions to my attention.

The West Dean Rural District Council regarded this system as unnecessary, choosing to make their own medical assessments.

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action during 1968.

	East Dean R.D.	Lydney R.D.	Newent R.D.	West Dean R.D.
PART II				
1. Sections 16/17 :—				
(i) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	12	1	2	20
(ii) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that : (a) the houses would not be used for human habita- tion until made fit ...	1	1	2	—
(b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfac- tion of the Local Author- ity	17	2	1	3
(iii) Houses in respect of which closing orders were made in lieu of demolition orders ...	24	7	3	14
(iv) Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	2	8	—	—
2. Section 18 :— Closing orders on parts of buildings	—	—	—	1
3. Section 24 :— Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit	—	1	—	4
4. Section 27 :— Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit	1	2	2	—
5. Section 28 :— Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted	—	—	—	8
6. Part III Clearance and Re-development	—	—	—	1C. Area (18 h'ses)
7. Part IV Abatement of Overcrowding	—	—	7	—

EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : W. MORRIS

Vice-Chairman : M. BRAIN

Members (from May, 1968) : Councillors, F. C. Beard, G. J. Beard, H. J. Beddington, R. J. Bevan, H. C. Byett, R. E. Cadle, E. Cooke, T. C. L. Davidson, R. A. Hawkins, K. W. W. Jones, G. B. Keyse, M. V. Lark, A. A. Legg, K. L. Perkins, H. S. Phillips, D. R. J. Pritchard, G. A. Smith, J. N. Taylor, T. E. Taylor, T. A. Trigg, L. J. Tuffley, L. S. Wilce, W. Wilkins, W. Wooding and S. H. Yeatman.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health Inspector : A. D. PARSONS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector : R. L. PUGH, M.A.P.H.I.
(resigned 28.2.68)

First Additional Public Health Inspector : B. G. H. RISBEY, CERT. S.I.B.,
A.R.S.H. (from 1.5.68)

Second Additional Public Health Inspector : C. H. JONES, M.A.P.H.I.,
DIP. P.H.I.E.B. (from 1.7.68)

Rodent Operator : J. Roberts (from 1.5.68)

Statistics

Population=21,130 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1968).

Area=30,078 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=7,221.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1968, was £471,475.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1968, was £1,892 2s. 3d.

Number of Live Births=348. Number of Deaths=261.

Excess of Births over Deaths=87.

Birth Rate=16.5 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.04, this gives an adjusted rate of 17.2. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.02.

Death Rate=12.4 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.05 this gives an adjusted rate of 13.0. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.09.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	165	158	323	15	10	25	180	168	348
Still Births	2	4	6	1	—	1	3	4	7
Deaths of infants									
under 1 wk.	4	2	6	—	—	—	4	2	6
1-4 weeks	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
4 wks.-1 yr.	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1

Population, Number of Houses and Caravans and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings		Properties connected to Mains Water Supply
		Houses	Caravans	
Awre	1,665	576	—	559
Blaisdon	353	85	—	71
Churcham	762	238	2	212
Cinderford	6,976	2,408	41	2,390
Drybrook	2,780	957	2	954
Huntley	550	193	—	170
Littledean	1,380	447	1	442
Longhope	1,115	374	24	321
Mitcheldean	2,036	679	3	646
Ruardean	1,275	450	13	457
Ruspidge	2,238	697	31	675
TOTALS	21,130	7,104	117	6,897

Mr. F. E. Huband, the Rating Officer, provided this table except for the population estimates.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. A. D. Parsons reports as follows :

The work in the Public Health Department progressively increased yet again during the year. There were 200 additional entries in the Complaints Register compared with the previous year and there was concentration on certain aspects of the Public Health work such as housing, caravans and food hygiene. There was extra responsibility in the preparation work for a new refuse tip at Cinderford, for a new site with proper amenities for the caravans now scattered at Crump Meadow, Cinderford, and for sewer extensions in the Parish of Drybrook (at the Hawthorns, at Harrow Hill and Ruardean Hill). There were unexpected problems to be faced as a result of the excessive rainfall on 10th July, which caused the collapse of the main trunk sewer to Crump Meadow Sewage Works and the flooding of many houses.

Mr. R. L. Pugh, the Additional Public Health Inspector, resigned on 29th February, and Mr. B. G. Risbey filled the post as from the 1st May. The post of Second Additional Public Health Inspector, was filled by Mr. C. H. Jones, who commenced his duties on 1st July.

The post of Additional Public Health Inspector was thus vacant for two months and that of Second Additional Public Health Inspector for twelve months.

The contract for the control of pests with a specialist firm was terminated at the end of April. Mr. J. Roberts was engaged as from 1st May, to deal with this work as well as to carry out the removal and disposal of dead animals, the majority of which were killed by traffic on the roads.

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action taken during 1968

Part II

1.	Sections 16/17	
	(i) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	12
	(ii) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that :	
	(a) the houses would not be used for human habitation	1
	(b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	17
	(iii) Houses in respect of which closing orders were made <i>in lieu</i> of demolition orders	24
	(iv) Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	2
2.	Section 18	
	Closing orders on parts of buildings	0
3.	Section 24	
	Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit	0
4.	Section 27	
	Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit	1
5.	Section 28	
	Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted	0
6.	Part III	
	Clearance and Re-development	0
7.	Part IV	
	Abatement of Overcrowding	0
8.	Representations by Medical Officer of Health	58

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Planning Consents granted during the year by the County Planning Authority for individual caravans (temporary)	11
Applications refused	4
Sites licensed :	
Woodview Orchard, Ruspidge	35
Wyelands, Ruardean	12
Rocklands, Longhope	25
Valley Road, Cinderford	69
Queen's Farm, Churcham	2
Sites for individual caravans	202
Total	345

An amended licence to increase the number of caravans by nine was granted in respect of Rocklands Caravan Site, Longhope.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Dairies	....	....	....	....	11
Distributors	....	....	....	....	20
Distributors with premises outside the District	....	....	....	....	5

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Nine slaughtermen were licensed to slaughter animals for food.

Slaughterhouse

There is only one slaughterhouse in the District ; this is in Valley Road, Cinderford, and is privately owned.

Meat Condemned at Slaughterhouse

Carcase meat	....	....	....	2,019 lbs.
Bovine, sheep and pig livers	....	....	....	4,419 „
Lights	....	....	....	370 „
Bovine heads	....	....	....	273 „
Pigs heads	....	....	....	600 „

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	2,845	50	108	11,379	6,998	—
Number inspected ...	2,845	50	108	11,379	6,998	—
All disease except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcases condemned ...	—	3	2	14	10	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	280	4	—	330	216	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	9.8	14.0	1.9	3.0	3.2	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	24	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	0.3	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	6	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Food Condemned (other than at Slaughterhouse)

Butter	....	....	....	....	24 lbs.
Sweets	....	....	....	....	7 „
Fruit ....	....	....	....	....	40 tins
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	30 „
Meat (various)	....	....	....	....	10 „
Milk	....	....	....	....	4 „
Fish ....	....	....	....	....	2 „

Whenever necessary certificates were issued in respect of food condemned due to failure of refrigeration plants in shops.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises in the District and no dressed poultry was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in the District.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

A survey of all food premises in the District was commenced during the latter half of the year. In the event of non-compliance with the Regulations a letter pointing out the defects was sent to the owners of the premises concerned. In conjunction with the inspections, the food handlers were advised of the reasons for carrying out the conditions imposed by the Regulations and it was found that upon being told the reason and then asked to comply, co-operation was usually forthcoming. Of course there is the inevitable hardcore against whom it may be necessary to institute proceedings to ensure compliance.

It was felt that a course for food handlers in food hygiene would be of great value ; it is hoped that such a course will be held in 1969.

One licensed premises was closed as a result of the survey and a number have since been modernised.

Category of Premises	Total Inspected	Number complying with Reg. 16	Number to which Reg. 19 applies	Number complying with Reg. 19
Catering Premises including Canteens ...	5 (21)	4	5	5
Grocery and Provisions Shops	30 (51)	22	30	28
Bakers	4 (4)	4	4	4
Butchers	15 (18)	12	15	14
Fishmongers	3 (4)	2	3	3
Sweet Shops	14 (45)	12	4	3
Licensed Premises ...	14 (64)	14	14	14

The table only relates to those that have been inspected and the figures in brackets are the estimated numbers of premises. Regulation 16 requires the provision of a wash hand basin and Regulation 19 requires facilities for washing food and equipment.

Ice-Cream

Premises registered for the Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-Cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

For the manufacture and sale (cold mix method only was used) 1
For the storage and sale of (pre-packed) ice-cream 134

Total 135

Number of ice-cream samples taken during the year for
Methylene Blue grading (all were Grade one) 10

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Number of properties in District (Non-Agricultural) ...	7,104
Total number of properties (including nearby properties) inspected following notification	382
Number infested by (i) Rats	302
(ii) Mice	80
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	160
Number infested by (i) Rats	110
(ii) Mice	6

Other treatments for pests were as follows : Wasps 24, Ants 8, Flies 6, Bees 4, and Moles 2.

Factories Act, 1961

Factory premises registered at the commencement of 1968 74
Factory premises removed from register during year 1
Factory premises added to register during year 2
Number of premises registered at end of year 75

Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities 	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ity 	72	4	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' prem- ises) 	—	—	—	—
TOTAL 	75	7	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—

Outworkers

There were 115 outworkers employed in the carding of pins and clips by a factory outside the District, and there was one outworker employed by a Woollen Mill also outside the District. No cases of default under Section 133 or instances under Section 134 came to light.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

All premises registered during the year received inspection. Re-visits were made to most of the surveyed premises and in the majority of cases remedial works had been effected. Of the remainder, only a few failed to acknowledge receipt of further letters.

The administration of the Act is progressing relatively satisfactorily.

Twenty-one Informal Notices were served where defects were found and in the majority of cases the necessary work was put in hand.

No accidents were reported during the year.

As requested, all the necessary forms were completed and returned to the Ministry of Labour during the year for their records.

Listed below are the main defects found :

Failure to provide thermometer	....	....	....	....	12
Inadequate washing facilities	....	....	....	....	11
Lack of artificial lighting in sanitary accommodation	....	....	....	....	9
Inadequate lighting of staircase	....	....	....	....	7
Lack of handrail to staircase	....	....	....	....	14
Lack of satisfactory first aid box	....	....	....	....	14
Failure to provide abstract of the Act	....	....	....	....	15

Registrations and Inspections

	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total number of Registered premises at end of year	Number of Registered premises receiving an inspection during the year
Offices	—	42	14
Retail Shops	1	118	44
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	—	5	1
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	—	9	4
Fuel storage depots	—	1	1
Totals	1	175	64

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace :

Class of workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	122
Retail Shops	441
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	24
Catering establishments open to the public	13
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	2
TOTAL	602
Total Males	246
Total Females	356

Clean Air Act, 1956

Further complaints were received about smells from a local factory ; these were again referred to the Manager and to the District Alkali Inspector. The assistance of the Advisory Department of the County Public Health Laboratory Service was sought in an effort to abate this nuisance.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Only one complaint was received during the year and this concerned noise nuisance from open cast mining in the District.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two annual licences were granted to pet shops in the District, after they had been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Three applications were made in respect of such premises, which were inspected and registered accordingly.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1963

No action was taken during the year to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act.

Swimming Pools

There is only one swimming pool in the District and this is at Abenhall Secondary Modern School ; no supervisory action was taken.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Five hundred and nine Land Searches were received for identification and observation ; seventy-two properties required inspection.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

All sewerage systems functioned satisfactorily during the year, and no major difficulties were encountered except that the outfall sewer to the Crump Meadow works was badly damaged during July. The failure followed a period of heavy rain which caused the collapse of a culvert on the Cinderford Brook near the Bilson refuse tip. This in turn caused a landslide and a section of cast iron sewer, laid on piers, collapsed and consequently the sewage disposal works was put out of action. The flow of sewage was diverted to the Soudley works and continued to be treated there until the necessary repairs were completed. The Crump Meadow works was finally brought back into operation in early December.

Cinderford District

A survey was carried out during the year by the Council's Consulting Engineers, revealing a number of minor defects to manhole covers and frames.

The Council decided to carry out similar surveys of other sewerage systems during 1969.

Final Effluents

Samples of final effluent were taken by the River Board's Pollution Prevention Officers from the sewage disposal works at Blakeney, Littledean, Soudley, Mitcheldean, Crump Meadow, and Ruardean, during the year.

Eighteen samples were collected and the analyses showed that, eleven were "satisfactory," two "border line" and five "unsatisfactory" (mainly because of too high suspended solids).

Sludge Disposal

Great difficulty was experienced throughout the year in finding suitable disposal sites for the increased quantities of dried sludge from the various works. During fine weather, disposal takes place on agricultural land but the vehicles must be confined to hard tracks during periods of wet weather.

A refuse lorry, which became surplus to requirements, was converted into a sludge carrying vehicle and has proved to be very useful.

General

All works received regular maintenance and inspection and were in generally good order. One of the main problems in connection with this service is the recruitment and retention of labour of a sufficiently high standard. The seven large works were well maintained and gave satisfactory treatment except the works at Mitcheldean which is overloaded and will become obsolete when the new works is provided at Longhope in, it is hoped, the not too distant future.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The refuse collection for the whole District was done by the same two Contractors, Messrs. E. A. Bayliss and C. Bell. The four disposal sites, at Cinderford, Blakeney, Brierley and Longhope are under the direct control of the Council and there was very little trouble from nuisances or pests.

Where practicable some of the rubbish was burnt, otherwise the bulk of the refuse was covered daily with suitable material. The fences and the access roads to the tips were maintained and extended as required. The gates were locked after each day's tipping and arrangements were made for the disposal of trade and any other rubbish.

The refuse collections were increased to include some 130 new houses at Cinderford, Blakeney, Mitcheldean, Ruardean, Drybrook, Huntley and Littledean, and for an extended collection at Harrow Hill.

The collections for Longhope and Huntley were changed from fortnightly to weekly.

At last, an alternative disposal site for Cinderford was found ; this was at Crump Meadow. The Bilson tip was therefore used in such a way that it could be closed as soon as it was no longer required.

Street Cleansing

Where necessary and as required more bins were fixed throughout the District.

The whole work of fixing and replacing the bins, also maintenance and weekly collection, was carried out by contract.

Litter was also removed from the main streets of Cinderford by direct labour on Sunday mornings.

When dead animals were reported to be lying on the highways, they were promptly removed ; the number of animals so removed was 62.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. L. A. Andrews, the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed :

Council Houses

Parish	1968		Pre-War	Post-War including 1968	Total
	houses	O.P.B's			
Awre ...	10	2	—	60	60
Blaisdon ...	—	—	—	—	—
Churcham ...	—	—	—	12	12
Cinderford ...	17*	21	80	374	454
Drybrook ...	—	—	6	142	148
Huntley ...	—	—	—	8	8
Littledean ...	—	—	—	95	95
Longhope ...	—	—	6	24	30
Mitcheldean ...	—	—	6	171	177
Ruardean ...	4	—	10	89	99
Ruspidge ...	15	2	26	116	142
Totals ...	46	25	134	1,091	1,225

*This includes a flat associated with the communal block in connection with the twenty-one old person's bungalows built at Cinderford.

Private Houses

Ninety-four private dwellings were completed during the year, making a total of 1,053 since 1946.

Improvement Grants

During the year applications were investigated and grants were approved by the Council as follows :

Type of Grant					Number approved in 1968	Number completed in 1968
Standard	...	...	...	...	89	48
Discretionary	...	...	...	...	14	3

Applicants for Council Accommodation

The waiting list for Council accommodation at the end of the year was as follows :

Cinderford 230, Ruardean 30, Drybrook 104, Littledean 31, Mitcheldean 84, Ruspidge 60, Blakeney 52, Huntley 29, Churcham 9, Longhope 27, making a total of 656.

LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : A. F. G. HOPES

Vice-Chairman : G. J. BENNETT

Members (from May, 1968) : Councillors Mrs. P. R. Manson, Mrs. A. B. Reissner, C. F. Berry, W. A. Butt, J. H. G. Darters, E. F. Davis, M. G. Edwards, D. G. Emery, P. E. Goatman, H. Harley, A. P. L. James, T. L. Richards, C. R. Smith and T. E. Wilcox.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Health Inspector : W. M. RICHARDS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Statistics

Population=14,440 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1968).

Area=24,597 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=4,893.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1968, was £461,407.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1968, was £1,885

Number of Live Births=206. Number of Deaths=149.

Excess of Births over Deaths=57.

Birth Rate=14.3 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.14 this gives an adjusted rate of 16.3. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 0.96.

Death Rate=10.3 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.12 this gives an adjusted rate of 11.5. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 0.97.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	97	97	194	7	5	12	104	102	206
Still Births	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1-4 wks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 wks.-1 yr.	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Alvington ...	424	150	130	1
Aylburton ...	826	285	258*	—
Hewelsfield ...	370	160	143	—
Lydney ...	5,889	2,285	2,263	—
St Briavels ...	1,170	445	413	—
Tidenham ...	4,936	1,256	1,234	—
Woolaston ...	825	312	283	2
TOTALS ...	14,440	4,893	4,724	3

*This includes 86 dwellings connected to the Aylburton Village Supply.

The figures for the number of dwellings and the connections to the Mains Water Supply were given by W. A. B. Peart, the Rating Officer.

The estimated population for Tidenham includes 746 staff and apprentices at the Army Apprentices' College at Beachley.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. W. M. Richards reports as follows :

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action taken during 1968

Part II

1. Sections 16/17

- (i) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 5
- (ii) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that :
 - (a) the houses would not be used for human habitation 1
 - (b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority —
- (iii) Houses in respect of which closing orders were made *in lieu* of demolition orders 8
- (iv) Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit 2

2. Section 18

Closing orders on parts of buildings —

3. Section 24

Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit 1

4. Section 27

Demolition orders determined after premises had been made fit 1

5.	Section 28								
	Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted								—
6.	Part III								
	Clearance and Re-development	....	....	....	....				—
7.	Part IV								
	Abatement of Overcrowding	....	....	....	....				—
	Unfit houses made fit after formal action	....	....	....	....				4

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the above Act were received.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Applications for Licences					Sites for Individual Caravans	Permanent Residential Sites	Holiday Caravan Sites
Received during 1968 for the first time					7	—	—
Received during 1968 for the renewal of licences					7	—	—
					14	—	—
Granted during 1968					10	—	—
Refused during 1968					4	—	—
					14	—	—

Number of Sites (in respect of which licences have been granted) :

			<i>Sites for Individual Caravans</i>	<i>Permanent Residential Sites</i>	<i>Holiday Caravan Sites</i>
Alvington	....	....	2	—	—
Aylburton	....	....	1	—	—
Hewelsfield	....	....	4	—	—
Lydney	....	....	5	—	—
St. Briavels	....	....	4	—	—
Tidenham	....	....	5	1	1
				(50	(3
				caravans)	caravans)
Woolaston	....	....	1	—	—
			—	—	—
			22	1	1
			—	—	—

Water Samples

Five samples taken from various sources were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

Samples taken from taps on mains supplies :

North West Gloucestershire Water Board	....	....	1
Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board	....		1
Aylburton Village Supply	....	....	1
			—
			3
			—

Other sources :

Bathurst Swimming Pool	2
------------------------	------	------	------	------	---

Milk

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Dairies not at farms	....	....	1
Distributors	....	....	26
Distributors with premises outside the District	....	....	6

Sedbury Dairies Limited :

Number of Producers : 59.
Average daily through-put of milk : 3,570 gallons.
Bottle (daily average) : 26,776.

Ice-Cream

Food and Drugs Act,1965—Section 16 :

Premises registered :

For manufacture (cold mix method used)	....	....	2
For storage and sale (pre-packed)	....	....	57

Visits were made but no action was found to be necessary in respect of the handling of ice-cream or of the condition of the premises.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Category of Premises	Number	Number complying with Regulation 16	Number complying with Regulation 19
Grocery	29	23	29
Confectioners	8	6	7
Butchers	14	8	13
Fruiterers	5	3	4
Fried Fish Shops	1	1	1
Cafes	3	3	3
Chemists	2	2	2
School Canteens	13	13	13
Factory Canteens	5	5	5
TOTALS	80	64	77

Meat

Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

Slaughtering is carried out at the only licensed slaughterhouse between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday in each week, and it has been possible to maintain 100 per cent inspection of all animals slaughtered.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	50	—	2	387	62	—
Number inspected ...	50	—	2	387	62	—
All disease except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	—	4	4	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	8	—	—	1.9	6.4	—

Cysticercosis : No animal slaughtered was found to be affected.

Tuberculosis : Again I am pleased to report that no carcase, part of a carcase or organ of the animals slaughtered during the year was affected by tuberculosis.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

The Council in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, issued the following licences during the year.

To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs	....	7
To slaughter and stun pigs only	....	7

Amount of Meat and Other Foods condemned as unfit for human consumption :

4 Bovine livers	....	48 lbs.
4 Sheep livers	....	3 lbs.
4 Pig's plucks	....	16 lbs.
48 lbs. imported jam		
1 - 10 lb. tin of imported ham		

- 1 - 10 lb. tin of imported sheeps livers
2 - 16 oz. tins of peas
7 - 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. tins of beans
1 - 7 oz. bottle of cherries
2 - 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tins of soup
3 - 16 oz. tins of beans
2 - 8 oz. tins of prunes
1 - 7 lb. tin of plums
1 - 10 oz. jar of pickles
4 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tins of peaches
2 - 16 oz. tins of casserole steak
2 - 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tins of creamed rice
2 - 16 oz. tins of sweetened milk
2 - 6 oz. tins of luncheon meat
2 - 16 oz. tins of carrots
4 lbs. of tomatoes
112 lbs. of apples
12 lbs. beef sausages
16 lbs. of onions
6 lbs. of pork
44 lbs. of beef
1 stone herrings

At one premises, because of the failure of the deep freeze plant, articles of various foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered to me which, upon examination, were found to be unfit for human consumption.

As a result of the flooding which occurred at Lydney on the 11th July, food at nine premises contaminated by flood-water was unfit for human consumption. All raw food including meat was destroyed by burning and other various articles of food were buried at the Council's refuse tip.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in District ...	5,141	189
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	81	4
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ...	81	4
(ii) Mice ...	—	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	285	12
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ...	8	1
(ii) Mice ...	10	—

Fairground

Visits were made to the annual fair at Lydney, and it was found that water supply and sanitary accommodation were adequately provided.

Public Health Act, 1936

Complaints : Forty-one complaints were received under the above Act, fifteen of these were in respect of defective drainage systems.

Lydney Shipping

Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year 1968 :

Coastwise	Number (Motors) (Sailing)	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied
—	650	25,058	—	—

Factories Act, 1961

Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authori- ties 	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ority 	44	19	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' prem- ises) 	17	11	—	—
TOTAL	63	32	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Con- veniences (S.7) ...					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences re- lating to Out- work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—

Register of Factories : Changes during the year : added 1, deleted 3.

Outworkers :

Whitecroft (Lydney) Ltd., Lydney, Glos. : 11.

Typrod Ltd., Industrial Estate, Lydney : 15.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Forty-three licences were issued by the Council for the storage of Petroleum Spirit.

Summary :	Filling Stations	....	....	18	
	Farms	....	....	8	
	Factories	....	....	8	
	Quarries	....	....	2	
	Business Premises	....	....	7	Total 43

Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929

One premises was licensed for the keeping of Carbide of Calcium.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1963

Seasonal casual gangs were employed on a few farms for blackcurrant and potato harvesting and temporary sanitary accommodation was provided.

Clean Air

The emission of dark smoke from chimneys at certain factories remains a problem for both management and local authority.

During the year some progress was made in this respect. An oil fired boiler was installed at one factory which reduced the load on the existing boiler and this did appreciably lessen the emission of dark smoke and dust.

A new incinerator was installed at a tyre factory at Church Road, Lydney, for the purpose of burning scrap rubber. The installation is in an experimental stage and if the proposed improvements are successful a similar type of incinerator will replace the existing one now operating at a factory on the Industrial Estate.

At another factory on the Estate, a new boiler was delivered to the site but was not installed.

Extensions carried out to factories on the Estate resulted in increased factory waste and this was burnt on the tip during three to four days a week. In my opinion the installation of an incinerator is essential to abate this nuisance.

There were no further complaints of the burning of sawdust at a factory at Sedbury, as this was removed to a site outside the District.

The Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations, 1966

There are no market premises in the District.

There are a number of bread vans and delivery vehicles used solely for delivering food which are not affected by the Regulations.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Two hundred and twenty-nine Land Searches were passed through the Public Health Department for observation, a number of which required identification and inspection.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

One premises is registered under the above Act.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing establishments in the District.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no premises in the District.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One licence was issued during the year.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

No complaints were received.

Game Act, 1831

One Game Dealers' Licence was granted under the above Act.

Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963

Two licences authorising the keeping of boarding establishments for animals were granted. Periodical visits were made but no action was found to be necessary in respect of the maintenance and condition of the premises.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Table A. Registrations.

Class of Premises	Premises Registered during the year	Registered Premises at end of year	Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	2	22	9
Retail Shops	5	63	32
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	2	2
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	—	10	6
Fuel storage depots	—	1	1

Table B. Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises : 50.

Table C. Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by workplace.

Class of Workplace	Persons employed
Offices	91
Retail Shops	218
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	10
Catering establishments open to the public	51
Canteens	4
Fuel storage depots	10
Male	164
Female	220
TOTAL	384

Licensed Premises

During the year new sanitary conveniences were provided at one premises and alterations and improvements carried out at another two. Only seven premises are now not on main drainage.

During the last few years the number of public houses has been reduced, the Royal Albert and the Rifleman's Arms, Lydney, have been demolished and The Foresters, Bream Road, Lydney, is now a business premises. The Kings Arms, Brockweir, and the old Woolaston Inn have been converted into dwelling houses. Three new premises were built.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

H. I. Spratt, C.ENG., M.I.MUN.E., A.M.T.P.I., M.R.S.H., reports as follows :

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Tidenham Sewerage Scheme was completed and most properties are connected. The Wye River Authority takes samples of the effluent from time to time and in every case these have proved to be satisfactory and well within the limits allowed.

The Consulting Engineers continued their investigations as to the cause of infiltration into sewers at Alvington and Woolaston ; meters were installed and a rain gauge was purchased and fixed at the works. The results obtained showed that very shortly after a rainfall commenced, the flow to the works increased and continued during the time of rain but was very quickly reduced after the rain ceased. This pattern is consistent with " separate " systems as it is impossible to prevent a certain amount of roof water getting into the sewer. The pattern mentioned above does not seem to be at all similar to that experienced in the early days of the operation of this works, when the surcharging lasted for many days. Thorough deliberation was given to this subject and it was finally agreed to abandon further work of investigation and that I should keep the matter in review.

Final approval of the Lydney Town Drainage Scheme was still awaited but provisional agreements for trade wastes were submitted to the Ministry ; also further meetings were held with representatives of West Dean Rural District Council together with their Consulting Engineers. The delay of this Scheme is causing grave concern, as it is now several years since I raised the question of drainage for the Town of Lydney and explained to the Committee how inadequate the system had become. I sincerely hope that every possible step will be taken to expedite the new drainage system for the Town of Lydney.

Incidents of flooding have occurred in Lydney from time to time, but during the month of July, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain fell over a period of twenty-four hours causing very serious flooding at Newerne Street, Lakeside, and other parts of the Town. This quantity of rain is exceptional, but it does emphasise the precarious position of surface water drainage in the lower part of Lydney, and as development proceeds this must be taken into consideration so as to not worsen the situation. The results of this incident prompted the Council to engage the services of a firm of Consulting Engineers to prepare a report on surface water drainage, together with their recommendations to alleviate the flooding. This report is awaited but I sincerely hope that action will be taken upon it.

Refuse Collection

The weekly refuse collections now cover the whole of the District and all refuse is deposited on to the tip at East Marsh, at Lydney. It was thought advisable to purchase a Track Marshall Diesel Crawler Tractor for spreading the refuse and covering it with top soil. This vehicle has been of great service and one wonders how the work was carried out

before this appliance was purchased. Economy and the resulting instructions to reduce expenditure wherever possible, has prevented the extension of the collection of refuse by the Paper Sack system, although the Council has agreed to adopt this system and has continued it for all their new houses. I think the time will come in the not too distant future when the Paper Sack system becomes the one and only method of collecting refuse in a rural district.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. H. I. Spratt, the Engineer and Surveyor, reports as follows :

Thirty-six Council houses were completed during the year, and the number of houses erected by the Authority by the end of 1968 is as follows :

Parish	1968	Pre-War and up to 1946	Post-War including 1968	Total
Alvington ...	6	14	25	39
Aylburton ...	—	8	40	48
Hewelsfield ...	4	6	10	16
Lydney ...	—	235	385	620
St Briavels ...	6	8	32	40
Tidenham ...	4	50	180	230
Woolaston ...	16	12	61	73
TOTALS ...	36	333	733	1,066

The Council sold a further two houses during the year. This made a total of thirty-seven houses which have been sold to tenants.

In addition to the above, the Council own thirty-one properties in Lydney, six in Tidenham and one in Alvington, and included in this figure are two houses purchased during the year. Modernisation schemes for nine of these properties were prepared, one was completed and the remainder are awaiting approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The improvement of pre-war houses continued ; Springmeadow site was completed and plans for the remainder of the Council houses in Tutnalls Street were prepared, tenders negotiated and submitted.

Private Dwellings completed during the year

Forty-seven private dwellings were built during the year bringing the number built since the war to 1,078.

Parish				Houses	Bungalows	Flats
Alvington	...	...	...	—	—	—
Aylburton	...	...	...	—	—	—
Hewelsfield	...	...	...	—	—	—
Lydney	...	...	...	12	21	—
St Briavels	...	...	...	2	4	—
Tidenham	...	...	...	5	2	—
Woolaston	...	...	...	—	1	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	19	28	—

Improvement Grants

During the year thirty-four Standard Grants and nine Discretionary Grants were approved.

Applicants for Council Accommodation

There were 249 applicants for Council houses at the end of the year.

NEWENT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : R. S. CHEW

Vice-Chairman : P. PRICE

Members (from May, 1968) : Councillors Mrs A. E. Potts, S. J. Ayland, J. M. Brooks, W. J. Cummins, F. Dunn, R. P. Ovington, J. M. Smith, S. Rouse and F. A. Windsor-Clive.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector :
H. S. JENKINSON, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Pests Officer :
T. A. CHETWOOD

Rodent Operator (part-time) : H. P. HYETT

Statistics

Population=9,680 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1968).

Area=41,111 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=3,226.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1968, was £195,547.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1968, was £776 9s. 7d.

Number of Live Births=133. Number of Deaths=91.

Excess of Births over Deaths=42.

Birth Rate=13.7 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.10 this gives an adjusted rate of 15.1. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 0.89.

Death Rate=9.4 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 0.97 this gives an adjusted rate of 9.1. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 0.77.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	68	61	129	2	2	4	70	63	133
Still Births	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	3
Deaths of infants under 1 week	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1-4 weeks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4wks.-1 year	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1

Population, Number of Houses, Mains Water Supply and Sewerage

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply		Properties with water closets connected to Sewer
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe	
Bromsberrow	240	71	55	—	14
Corse	486	160	150	—	49
Dymock	1,250	408	370	1	74
Hartpury	767	246	225	—	21
Kempley	247	95	75	—	—
Newent	3,900	1,281	1,177	4	817
Oxenhall	252	71	54	—	—
Pauntley	160	54	27	—	—
Redmarley	755	269	246	—	17
Rudford	250	89	69	—	—
Staunton	383	134	121	—	—
Taynton	437	161	127	—	—
Tibberton	337	106	105	—	—
Upleadon	216	81	69	—	—
TOTALS	9,680	3,226	2,870	5	992

This table includes 51 caravan sites assessed separately.

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board supplies all the properties on the mains except the following :

Malvern Urban District Council supplies all the 55 properties served at Bromsberrow, 52 properties at Dvmock and 19 at Redmarley.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows :

Public Health Section

Housing

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action taken during 1968

Part II

1. Sections 16/17	
(i) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	2
(ii) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that :	
(a) the houses would not be used for human habitation	2
(b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	1

(iii)	Houses in respect of which closing orders were made made <i>in lieu</i> of demolition orders	....	....	....	3
(iv)	Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	....	....	....	—
2.	Section 18				
	Closing orders on parts of buildings	....	....	....	—
3.	Section 24				
	Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit	....	....	....	—
4.	Section 27				
	Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit	....	....	....	2
5.	Section 28				
	Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted				—
6.	Part III				
	Clearance and Re-development	....	....	....	—
7.	Part IV				
	Abatement of Overcrowding	....	....	....	7

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for a Certificate of Disrepair were received.

Summary of Slum Clearance since 1955

Closing Orders made	....	....	....	....	....	40
Properties improved and Orders terminated				....	....	18
Converted to Demolition Orders and demolished				....		1
Demolished by Owners without Demolition Orders				....		6
Remaining closed	....	....	....	....	....	15
Undertakings accepted		....	....	....	....	49
(a) to do work	....	....	....	....	....	19
(i) work finished		....	....	....	....	9
(ii) not yet done		....	....	....	....	10
(b) not to use for human habitation			....	....	....	30
Demolition Orders made	....	....	....	....	....	33
(i) reconstructed		....	....	....	....	2
(ii) demolished		....	....	....	....	11
(iii) still standing		....	....	....	....	17
(iv) used for other purposes		....	....	....	....	3
Total number dealt with	....	....	....	....	....	122
Total brought back into use	....	....	....	....	....	36

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

This Department is notified when shops or individuals suspect that items of food are unfit for human consumption. The following was condemned during the year :

Chickens	....	....	....	641 lbs.
Lamb	....	....	....	210 „
Bacon	....	....	....	139 „
Pork	....	....	....	44 „
Ox Tongue	....	....	....	40 „
Beef	....	....	....	10 „
Ox Liver	....	....	....	7 „
Frozen Foods	....	....	....	216 „
Cheese	....	....	....	138 „
Corned Beef	....	....	....	15 „
Margarine	....	....	....	30 „
Butter	....	....	....	23 „
Lard	....	....	....	13 „

Foreign Bodies in Food

Two complaints were received ; one was of black marks in a loaf of bread, caused by particles of burnt lubricating fat dropping into the mixture. The bakery was written to informally and gave a satisfactory explanation.

The other case concerned pieces of broken glass in a bottle of milk. The complaint was reported to the Council who decided that the supplier should be prosecuted. The dairy subsequently pleaded guilty and were fined £15, plus £10 10s. 0d. advocate's fees.

Ice-Cream

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the District. Thirty-six premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream ; one is for soft ice-cream and the others are for pre-packed ice-cream.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of Inspections	Remarks
Cafes and Canteens	15	18	This includes school canteens.
Grocery and Provision Shops	34	34	This includes sweet shops and chemists shops.
Ice-cream Vendors	36	34	Registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
Butchers Shops ...	6	58	Two Mobile Traders from outside the District are included. Two are registered under S.16 (b) Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale).
Fishmongers ...	4	14	(This includes one trader with two Mobile vans). There are two fried fish shops in Newent
Bakehouses ...	3	3	
Licensed Premises	21	21	All in good hygienic condition.
Dairies ...	3	6	Registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959.
Wholesale Premises (food manufacture)	2	8	Egg Packing and Poultry Dressing Station.

All the above food premises comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, i.e. wash-hand basins and facilities for washing food and equipment are provided.

Food Hygiene (Market, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

Six inspections of delivery vehicles were carried out and two contraventions were remedied informally.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Table A. Registrations.

Class of Premises	Premises Registered during the year	Registered Premises at end of year	Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	—	12	6
Retail shops	—	24	17
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	—	—	—
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	—	2	1
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—

Table B. Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises : 76.

Table C. Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by workplace.

Class of Workplace									Persons employed
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Retail shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Wholesale departments, warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Catering establishments open to the public	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Fuel storage depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Twenty-nine caravan sites throughout the District are licensed for thirty-three caravans. There are no large caravan sites.

Meat

Slaughterhouses

There are three slaughterhouses in the District : one at Newent, one at Tibberton and one at Dymock, the last being used only occasionally. All slaughterhouses comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Seven slaughtermen are licensed in the District.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	218	—	—	841	228	—
Number inspected ...	218	—	—	841	228	—
All disease except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	1	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	32	—	—	15	20	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	14.7	—	—	1.9	9.7	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat condemned at slaughterhouses : 533 lbs.

Water Supply

The waters from three wells were examined bacteriologically and found to be unsatisfactory.

Nuisances

One statutory notice was served, requiring repairs to be carried out.

Factories Act, 1961

Part I

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities 	6	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ority 	19	24	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' prem- ises) 	8	8	—	—
TOTALS 	33	38	4	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4	4	—	—	—

Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1963

Eight visits were made and no need for action was found.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Two hundred and seven Land Searches passed through the Department for observation and checking.

Poultry Inspection

There are two premises in which poultry dressing and packing is carried out ; no requests for inspection of diseased birds were received.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

There are ten producer-retailers and ten distributors registered with the Council. Three outside retailers operate within the District.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no premises in the District to which these Regulations apply.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are no pet shops in the District.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

There are two premises, one at Dymock and one at Bromsberrow, licensed under this Act.

Game Act, 1831

There are no premises in the District licensed under this Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During the year the following work was carried out :

Type of Property	Inspections	Treatments
Local Authority :		
Sewage works and Refuse tips 	20	10
Dwelling houses (including Council houses) 	133	23
All other (including Business Premises) 	36	3
TOTALS 	189	36
Agriculture 	12	2

Details of work carried out on Sewers and Refuse Tips :

Sewers and Works	Action Taken	Result
Cleeve Lane Sewage Works 	Inspection	Clear
Dymock Sewage Works 	Treatments	Clear
Newent Town Sewers 	Test Baited	Clear
Dymock Sewerage System 	Test Baited	Clear
Refuse Tips 	Action Taken	Result
Upleadon 	Treatments	Clear
Staunton 	Test Baited	Clear
Kents Green 	Inspection	Clear
Kempley 	Test Baited	Clear

When the Council carries out treatments at private dwellings or business premises at the request of the owner/occupier, charges are made to cover the full cost of treatment, except in the case of old age pensioners.

The Council have no arrangements to carry out disinfection by contract.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

No action was found to be necessary under this Act.

Clean Air Act, 1956

No action was found to be necessary under this Act.

Surveyor's Section

Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants for conversion or improvement of housing accommodation.

Applications approved :

Conversions	....	....	....	....	4
Improvements	....	....	....	....	2

Standard Grants for improvement of dwellings :

Applications approved	....	....	....	27
Grants paid after completion of work				24

Number of amenities provided : baths 21, wash-hand basins 23, hot water systems 24, water closets 23 and food stores 19.

Refuse Collection

The situation is unchanged, weekly collections are made in Newent Town and fortnightly over the remainder of the District. Tipping sites are selected ahead of requirements, usually at the request of farmers to fill hollows or reclaim waste land.

Civic Amenities Act

Removal of abandoned cars is normally made by arrangement with a private scrap metal dealer. Five cars were dealt with. A number of visits are being made by the refuse collectors to tidy up roadside verges after gipsies have moved on.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Newent

Further sewer extensions were made by contractors to serve private housing estates. Investigations into ground water infiltration into the sewers were commenced. The estimated dry weather flow of sewage is not yet up to design capacity.

Dymock

Apart from an extension made to the sludge drying beds, the position at these works is unchanged.

Bromsberrow Heath

The new sewage disposal works were completed in August, 1968. These are designed to treat sewage from the 49 existing dwellings and one Public House and a further 18 new dwellings in the sewerage area.

At the end of the year 17 dwellings were connected, including 6 Council houses.

Tibberton

Work commenced and progressed satisfactorily on this sewerage and sewage disposal scheme and completion is estimated by April, 1969.

Eastern Area Scheme

Little progress has been made apart from finalising the site for the sewage disposal works and the preparation of details for the enquiry.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Forty-eight licences for bulk storage were issued.

Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929

No licences were issued.

Street Cleansing

The County Council, as Highway Authority, is responsible for sweeping roads and the District Council for providing and emptying litter bins.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

Eight dealers were registered during the year.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows on the number of houses completed :

Council Houses

Twenty-two dwellings were completed during the year.

Site works for ten dwellings were completed at Bromsberrow Heath.

Parish	1968	Pre-war	Post-war including 1968	Total
Bromsberrow ...	—	6	4	10
Corse ...	—	6	20	26
Dymock ...	—	17	47	64
Hartpury ...	—	10	11	21
Kempley ...	—	4	12	16
Newent ...	22	67	209	276
Oxenhall ...	—	—	6	6
Pauntley ...	—	—	—	—
Redmarley ...	—	8	16	24
Rudford ...	—	—	4	4
Staunton ...	—	6	6	12
Taynton ...	—	8	7	15
Tibberton ...	—	2	4	6
Upleadon ...	—	6	6	12
TOTALS ...	22	140	352	492

Improvements to Council Houses

Improvements and alterations to 16 Council houses were commenced and included 14 alterations to provide internal water closets, 14 coal bunkers, the plastering of 16 kitchens, the tiling of 6 floors in kitchens and the provision of 4 hot water systems and wash-hand basins.

Applications for Council Accommodation

There were 190 applicants for Council houses at the end of the year.

Private Houses

Thirty-three private houses were erected during the year making a total of six hundred and twelve during the post-war period.

WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : W. G. MORGAN

Members (from May, 1968) : Councillors Miss J. E. Davies, Mrs T. E. Beddis, G. G. J. Adams, G. G. Green, S. W. Hatton, W. J. Neale, J. Rooke-Johnson, T. J. Watkins and W. O. G. Whittington.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health Inspector : W. T. BEBB, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector : J. BUCHAN, CERT. R. SAN. ASSOC.
SCOTLAND

Assistant to the Public Health Inspector : E. T. NELMES

Statistics

Population=17,670 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1968).

Area=24,140 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=6,140.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1968, was £401,586.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1968, was £1,594 11s. 7d.

Number of Live Births=295. Number of Deaths=266.

Excess of Births over Deaths=29.

Birth Rate=16.7 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.04 this gives an adjusted rate of 17.4. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.03.

Death Rate=15.1 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 0.98 this gives an adjusted rate of 14.8. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.24.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	140	149	289	3	3	6	143	152	295
Still Births	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	2	3	5	—	—	—	2	3	5
1-4 weeks	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
4 wks.-1 yr.	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe*
WEST DEAN R.D				
Coleford	3,522	1,115	1,106	3
English Bicknor	427	135	135	—
Lydbrook Parish	2,298	802	782	5
Newland Parish	946	335	315	5
Staunton	207	71	69	—
WEST DEAN PARISH				
Berry Hill	1,755	589	567	—
Bream	2,283	801	781	—
Broadwell	1,636	579	572	—
Ellwood	583	197	191	—
Milkwall	825	259	257	—
Parkend	658	219	218	—
Pillowell	428	152	147	2
Viney Hill	392	135	131	—
Whitcroft	540	198	195	—
Yorkley	1 170	414	409	—
Total W.D. Parish	10,270	3,543	3,468	2
Total West Dean Rural District	17,670	6,001	5,875	15

*Includes properties with an outside tap.

Mr. E. T. Nelmes supplied me with the number of dwellings and the properties connected to the mains water supply for the above table.

Caravans

Parish	Number of Caravans			
	Licensed	Exempt from Licensing	Connected to Mains Water Supply (i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
WEST DEAN R.D.				
Coleford	38	—	37	1
English Bicknor	3	—	3	—
Lydbrook Parish	4	1	2	2
Newland Parish	5	—	5	—
Staunton	1	—	—	1
WEST DEAN PARISH				
Berry Hill	17	1	15	2
Bream	5	—	4	1
Broadwell	4	3	4	—
Ellwood	9	—	8	1
Milkwall	40	1	39	1
Parkend	—	1	—	—
Pillowell	1	—	1	—
Viney Hill	3	1	3	—
Whitcroft	—	—	—	—
Yorkley	1	—	1	—
Total W.D. Parish	80	7	75	5
Total West Dean Rural District	131	8	122	9

Mr. Nelmes was responsible for this table.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. W. T. Bebb reports as follows :

Housing

Housing Act, 1957. Action taken during the year

- (a) Action under Section 16/17
- (i) Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made

.....

19
- (ii) Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were substituted after violation of undertakings

1
- (iii) Number of dwellings in respect of which undertakings were accepted that

(a) the houses would cease to be used for human habitation

.....

Nil

(b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority

.....

3

(iv)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made <i>in lieu</i> of demolition orders	....	14
(v)	Number of dwellings in respect of which closing orders were substituted after violation of undertakings	....	Nil
(vi)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	....	Nil
(b)	Action under Section 18		
	Number of closing orders made on parts of dwellings	....	1
(c)	Action under Section 24		
	Number of demolition orders revoked after properties had been made fit	....	4
(d)	Action under Section 27		
	Number of closing orders determined after properties had been made fit	....	Nil
(e)	Action under Section 28		
	Number of closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted	....	8
(f)	Action under Part III (Clearance and Re-development) of the Housing Act, 1957		
(i)	Number of Clearance Areas defined and declared	....	1
(ii)	Number of houses involved	....	18

Housing Act, 1961

(a)	Action under Section 26		
	Number of demolition orders (made under Section 17 of the Principal Act) determined and closing orders substituted	....	Nil

Demolition of Condemned Properties

Twenty-eight houses were demolished during the year and many others were in various stages of demolition when the year ended.

Five houses were demolished in default of action by the owners.

Housing Programme

Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts, 1936, 1957 and 1961, since the commencement of the First Slum Clearance Programme on the 3rd November, 1955 :

Dealt with

1.	Subject to demolition orders	....	285
2.	Subject to closing orders	....	116
3.	Subject to undertakings		
(a)	to repair	....	23
(b)	not to use	....	14
4.	In clearance areas	....	23
5.	By certificate of M.O.H. (Council owned)	....	8
6.	By agreement (Crown owned)	....	6
7.	In programme but dealt with unofficially	....	42
			<hr/>
			517
			<hr/>

Renovated	
8. Demolition orders revoked after properties were made fit	28
9. Closing orders determined after properties were made fit	16
10. Undertakings cancelled after properties were made fit	25
11. In programme but made fit without formal action	34
	<hr/>
	103
Demolished	
12. Demolished since 1955 (but not necessarily condemned since that date)	304
Still Standing	
13. Properties still standing (some condemned before 1955)	
(i) Subject to demolition orders	130
(ii) Subject to closing orders	74
(iii) Subject to undertakings	
(a) to repair	12
(b) not to use	17
	<hr/>
	233
<hr/>	
14. Of the 233 properties still standing the following are, for various reasons, still occupied :	
(i) Subject to demolition orders	20
(ii) Subject to closing orders	10
(iii) Subject to undertakings	
(a) to repair	6
(b) not to use	2
	<hr/>
	38
	<hr/>

Improvement Grants

Discretionary and Standard Grants are administered by the Engineer and Surveyor’s Department but in the case of Standard Grants inspections are carried out jointly with the Public Health Department in order that the fitness of the property may be judged and so that any additional repair work, considered necessary to ensure that the property will remain fit for not less than 15 years, may be imposed as a condition of the Grant.

During the year fifty-five properties were inspected and additional repair work was required by the Public Health Department in fifty-four cases.

In addition, work on the improvement of dwellings with the aid of Standard Grants was inspected and found to be satisfactorily completed in thirty cases.

Water Supply

Since regular routine sampling is carried out by officials of the North West Gloucestershire Water Board and the results notified to the Medical Officer of Health, only five water samples were collected during the year. These were taken from various points on the public mains as additional checks.

Three samples of water were also taken from private and public wells, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for bacteriological examination.

Milk and Dairies

Register of Dairies

The number of registered dairies was increased to six. These do not include dairies situated at dairy farms which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Register of Milk Distributors

Number on the Register at the beginning of 1968	....	14
Removed from the Register during the year	....	Nil
Added to the Register during the year	....	2
Total number of registered distributors	....	16

Six distributors, operating from premises outside the District, also retail milk in the area, their premises being registered by the Local Authority in whose area they are situated.

Ten dairy farms retail milk in the District.

No routine milk samples were taken by the Department during the year as intensive milk sampling is undertaken by the County Council's Sampling Officers and the results notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

Ice-Cream

Register of Ice-Cream Premises

Number on the Register at the beginning of 1968	....	93
Removed from Register during the year	....	Nil
Added to Register during the year	....	Nil
Total number of registered premises at the end of the year		93

One change of ownership of registered premises was notified during the year.

The number of ice-cream manufacturers in the District remained at two, the ' cold-mix ' method being used in both cases.

Food Hygiene

The following is a brief analysis of the food premises in the District :

Category	Number	Number fitted to comply with Regulation 16*	Number fitted to comply with Regulation 19†
Bakers	5	5	5
Butchers	18	18	18
Caterers	26	26	26
Chemists	3	3	2
Fish and Chip Fryers ...	5	5	5
Fishmongers	1	1	1
General Shopkeepers ...	77	77	76
Grocers	28	28	28
Sweet Shopkeepers ...	9	9	9
TOTALS	172	172	170

*Regulation 16 relates to the provision of personal washing facilities and

†Regulation 19 to the provision of facilities for washing equipment and food.

All the premises to which Regulation 19 applies are fitted to comply therewith.

Although all food premises are equipped with the necessary sinks and wash-basins to comply with the relevant legislation the provision of adequate and suitable facilities does not, in itself, create a high standard of hygiene and constant checks are made to ensure that facilities are being utilised in a satisfactory manner.

During the course of inspections many other points are also taken into consideration, such as general cleanliness, positioning of foodstuffs, provision of refrigeration equipment. It is gratifying to note that the majority of small shopkeepers are beginning to appreciate that the presentation of their goods and clean and attractive premises are important factors in attracting trade. It has been found that, especially where small general shops have changed hands, owners are redesigning the shop layout to provide adequately lighted and attractive premises which lend themselves to good hygienic practices.

Advice from the Public Health Department is generally welcomed at this stage and there is little doubt that this 'miniature supermarket' type of village shop will gradually replace the old, badly-lit and generally untidy shop. Supermarkets are often criticised for their hard-selling methods but from the hygiene aspect they are undoubtedly exercising a beneficial effect by educating the public to shop in premises which are clean, well-lit, tidy and well-equipped.

Meat and other Food Inspection

The following foodstuffs were inspected at various retail premises in the District and condemned as being unfit for human consumption :

1 - 11 lbs. can cooked pork shoulder	....	Decomposition
27½ lbs. side of pork	.... ....	Bruising & haemorrhage
1 - 12 lbs. 6 oz. can cooked ham	....	Decomposition
1 - 12 lbs. can cooked ham	.... ....	Decomposition
1 - 11 lbs. can cooked ham	.... ....	Decomposition
96 lbs. topside of beef	.... ....	Bone taint
9 lbs. leg of pork	.... ....	Abscess
1 - 11 lbs. 2 oz. can cooked gammon	....	Decomposition
1 - 4 lbs. can pork luncheon meat	....	Decomposition
24 lbs. sirloin beef	.... ....	Abscesses
8 lbs. leg of pork	.... ....	Abscesses

Total weight of foodstuffs condemned : 2 cwts. 2 lbs.

In addition to the above foodstuffs which were dealt with at the request of the shopkeepers concerned, several complaints were also received from members of the public regarding certain items after purchase.

One case involved several sausage rolls purchased from a local butcher, which were found, during consumption, to be mouldy. The mould growth was found on the sausage meat inside the rolls and not on the pastry. Investigation failed to reveal any definite cause of the mould growth as the rolls were delivered regularly to the branch shop from the company's manufacturing premises and the shop manager affirmed that any sausage rolls remaining unsold after twenty-four hours were disposed of as waste. The purchaser was, of course, recompensed by the company.

A complaint was also received regarding a pack of sausages, purchased from a local general store, which was found to have fly eggs on and under the cellophane wrapping. It appeared that the presence of eggs under the wrapping was due to a small tear in the cellophane. The shopkeeper was interviewed and it was found that the shop did not possess any refrigerated storage for foodstuffs. The matter was resolved within a short time, however, as the shop was sold and the new owners effected several improvements included refrigerated storage.

A complaint regarding tainted milk and another regarding a dirty milk bottle were passed to the County Public Health Officer for investigation.

Slaughterhouses

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the District and consequently the only meat inspection carried out is in those cases where local butchers receive consignments of meat and suspect the presence of certain pathological conditions, as for example, in the case of deep-seated abscesses which are virtually impossible to detect in the normal course of inspection and only come to light when the carcase is being cut up.

Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961

As in previous years a considerable number of complaints were received regarding nuisances caused by septic tanks. The main cause of complaint is normally effluent finding its way on to adjoining land or roadways, usually at a lower level than the land on which the septic tank is installed. This is particularly true of those areas in which there is a clay sub-soil, but trouble is frequently encountered in cases where a good, permeable sub-soil is present.

It has seldom been found necessary to resort to formal action to secure the abatement of nuisances caused by septic tanks but one Statutory Notice was served, during the year, which quickly achieved the desired results.

Free-ranging sheep and other animals continued to give rise to nuisance by reason of fouled footpaths, accumulations of excreta, and overturned dustbins. Efforts to deal with this matter have so far been of no avail and there is every indication that the problem of these animals in the Forest will continue for many years.

Factories Act, 1961
Section 8

Factory premises registered at the commencement of 1968	71
Premises added to Register during the year	1
Premises removed from Register during the year	3
Number of registered factory premises at the end of 1968....	69

Part I

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	69	33	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	69	33	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	4	—	1	—

Section 133

One hundred and forty-two persons were listed as out-workers, all being in the employ of a local metal fastener manufacturing company.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Details from Register of Site Licences :

Number on Register at the end of 1967	....	....	....	....	79
Removed from Register on December 31st, 1967, because of expiry of Licence	....	....	....	....	27
On Register at commencement of 1968	....	....	....	....	52
Registered (including renewals) during 1968	....	....	....	....	16
Expired during 1968	....	....	....	....	1
On Register at the end of 1968	....	....	....	....	67
These are comprised as follows :					
Holiday sites	....	....	....	....	2
Residential	....	....	....	....	65

The 65 residential site licences authorise the stationing of 139 caravans, but the maximum number of caravans known to occupy these sites totalled 131.

Apart from these there are, throughout the District, eight caravans which are exempt from the licensing requirements of the Act, plus one which is illegally occupied.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949-54

A summary of contractual pest control work during the year is given hereunder :

<i>Type of Premises Treated</i>				<i>Number of Premises Treated</i>	<i>Type of Infestation</i>	
					<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>
Agricultural	....	....	....	2	2	—
Business	....	....	....	12	12	—
Domestic	....	....	....	121	118	3
Local Authority	....	....	....	5	5	—
				—	—	—
				140	137	3
				—	—	—

In addition to the work mentioned above, bi-annual treatment was maintained on the Coleford old culvert systems.

This year also saw the biennial test baiting of all public sewer networks throughout the District, in accordance with the procedure recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

At the end of the year ten scrap metal dealers were registered with the Council, including two who were registered for the first time during the year. Eight registrations expired during the year but applications for renewal were received in respect of only five of these, the other three dealers having ceased to trade for various reasons.

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the District

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry-dressing establishments in the District

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Practically all the agricultural units in the District are relatively small in acreage and employ only one or two farmworkers, or none at all in many cases.

There is very little seasonal variation although one or two units may employ additional local labour during potato harvesting and fruit picking periods.

In view of the relative compactness of most units the provision of a sanitary convenience in the vicinity of the farmhouse is usually adequate to meet the needs of employees and it has been found that most agricultural units are so equipped.

Petroleum Spirit and Calcium Carbide

Number of premises licensed to store petroleum spirit	....	51
Number of premises licensed to store calcium carbide	....	1

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

No licences to slaughter animals were issued during the year.

Game Act, 1831

No dealer's licences under this Act were issued during the year.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

A considerable number of enquiries were received and dealt with relating to Official Searches. In some instances this necessitated inspection of the properties concerned.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One licence was issued during the year authorising the use of premises in Coleford as a Pet Shop.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

One licence, subject to certain conditions, was issued to applicants at Joyford in respect of boarding kennels for dogs.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Seven premises received general inspections during the year and follow-up visits were made to others to inspect work carried out and to offer advice on various aspects of the Act's requirements.

None of the premises receiving general inspections were found to comply with all the requirements of the Act but in some cases the deficiencies were relatively minor.

The following is an analysis of the defects found to exist in these premises :

Lack of adequate First Aid requisites	....	....	....	4
Lack of thermometer	....	....	....	4
Inadequate temperature in workroom	....	....	....	2
No Abstract of the Act posted	....	....	....	7
Inadequate ventilation to workroom	....	....	....	1
Inadequate ventilation to sanitary accommodation	....	....	....	1
Lack of intervening ventilated space to sanitary accommodation	....	....	....	1
Lack of cleanliness	....	....	....	2
Unsatisfactory condition of floor	....	....	....	2
Lack of door fastening to sanitary accommodations	....	....	....	1

No complaints or enquiries were received from employees relating to working conditions in premises to which the Act applies.

No notifications of accidents have been received this year, nor indeed since the Act came into operation.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The refuse collection service continued to function satisfactorily. Again not one justifiable complaint was received.

Clean Air Act, 1956

Only one complaint was received regarding the emission of dark smoke from furnace plant on industrial premises. This related to a local charcoal factory and it was found, on investigation, that a contributory factor to the problem was the practice of returning the wood gas from the retorts back over the furnaces to be burned. The management were willing to co-operate on the problem and experiments with various types of solid fuel and with stoking methods have been undertaken and are still proceeding.

A further difficulty which arose at the same factory was the occasional emission of what appeared at first sight to be very dark smoke. This, however, proved to be very fine particles of charcoal dust escaping from the ventilators in the grading store. New extraction equipment has now been installed to minimise the emission of this fine dust.

A number of complaints were received in the course of the year relating to nuisances caused by the burning of waste materials, such as oil, sawdust and rubber, on various industrial premises.

The disposal of highly-combustible industrial waste presents a considerable problem in this area because of the extensive tracts of woodland which cover a great part of the District and the consequent risk of forest fire. Although several of the many disused stone quarries and pit shafts have been utilised for the disposal of certain industrial waste materials the possibility of combustion is too great in some instances and alternative means of disposal must be found.

Several complaints were also received regarding nuisances caused by the emission of grit and dust from stone-crushing and tarmacadam manufacturing plants. However, the position has improved considerably this year due to the installation of additional dust-extraction equipment and more regular maintenance of the existing plant.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Two complaints were received during the year in respect of noise nuisances, both relating to industrial premises.

In the first case the use of a corrugating machine at a large factory manufacturing cardboard cases caused nuisance to residents in the vicinity, although those most badly affected by the noise resided outside the boundary of the Rural District. Co-operation was received from H.M. Factories Inspectors in dealing with this problem but it had not been resolved by the end of the year.

In the other instance complaints were received from neighbours regarding noise arising from a carpentry workshop. The noise was emanating from two sources, namely an orbital sander, which was being used on hollow wood boxes, and a transistor radio. The management removed the sanding process to another workshop, which was not in close proximity to dwellinghouses, and undertook to ensure that the volume of radio noise would be kept at a much reduced level.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

H. Parks, B.E.M., C.ENG., M.I.MUN.E., M.INST. P.H.E., M.INST.H.E., reports as follows :

Housing

During 1968, 48 new Council houses were erected and 100 houses were modernised. On private housing the Council gave 13 Discretionary and 49 Standard Grants and made 20 loans to owners to improve their dwellings.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

(a) Northern Area

The preparation of a sewerage scheme for the Village of English Bicknor was completed during 1968. It comprises approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of sewers and caters for 58 dwellings. It includes one sewage pumping station for certain low lying properties and it is intended to convey the sewage to the Lydbrook Sewage Disposal Works for treatment.

During 1968 Cathodic Protection was made to the portion of steel sewers at Lydbrook where laid in bad ground.

Three samples of effluent were taken by the Wye River Authority from the main disposal works at Newland. These proved to be satisfactory but one taken from English Bicknor was unsatisfactory.

During the year it was ascertained that the County Council School at Joys Green was still discharging sewage into the old and (now disused) Sewage Disposal Works at Joys Green. It was arranged by the County Council to remedy this matter by connecting to the existing public sewers.

Considerable amounts of wet sludge have to be taken away from the works at Lydbrook and also the small works at English Bicknor serving Council houses as it is quite impossible to get the sludge dried on the existing drying beds. During 1968, 58 full loads of wet sludge were taken away and 11 full loads of dried sludge.

(b) Central Area

During the year the Council laid new sewers in Gloucester Road, Coleford, and also altered the sewerage or drainage disposal arrangements for certain properties in Albert Road, Coombs Park and Lords Hill, the result of which permitted 33 existing properties to be connected to the foul sewers and disconnected from the culverts.

Regular surveys and inspections, including sampling of the Whitecliff and Newland Valley brook have been made during the year, both by the Wye River Authority and also by the Council's Consultant Chemists. Samples of the flow in the culvert and brook were taken above and below the point of discharge of storm water from the Beecham's Royal Forest Factory and above and below the point of discharge of effluent from the Newland Sewage Disposal Works. As a result of this survey, the Wye River Authority reported that the brook was still receiving a small polluting discharge from this Factory. They further stated that "whilst the effluent discharge from the Newland Sewage Disposal Works has a measurable effect on the Valley Brook, it is quite satisfactory and the brook is satisfactory further down stream. Its effect on the River Wye would be negligible."

After further investigations it was established that the pollution of the Valley Brook from the Beecham's Royal Forest Factory arose from fractures in both the foul sewer and the storm sewer which were laid adjacent to each other at the time of construction. Lengths of both these sewers were relaid and certain slight alterations made in the combined manholes which it was hoped would eliminate the pollution. Unfortunately, although the relaying of these sewers was mostly successful, there is still some slight pollution and at the close of the year further investigations were being carried out within the curtilage of the factory premises.

At the Newland Sewage Disposal Works, a total volume of 131,780,500 gallons of sewage was treated during 1968, and of this volume 40,046,500 gallons was trade discharge from the Beecham's Royal Forest Factory.

At Coleford a length of foul sewer was taken up and reconstructed in association with the County Council Highways Department on the demolition of the old railway bridge at Cinder Hill.

Coleford culverts still require some attention and though, during the year approximately 100 yards of 24 in. new culvert was laid at the bottom of Lords Hill, there still remains the culvert "bottleneck"

in Newland Street to be dealt with. At the close of the year a detailed scheme and estimates for this had been submitted to the County Highways Authority for the laying of a relief culvert to by-pass this restriction.

A total of ten samples of effluent were taken from the Newland Sewage Disposal Works and the small disposal works at Clearwell during the year. All the samples from Newland proved to be satisfactory and all but one from Clearwell.

The problem of sludge disposals from the main works at Newland is an even greater problem than that at either the Northern Area or the Southern Area and during 1968, 491 full loads of wet sludge and 155 full loads of dried sludge were taken away for disposal in the Council's rented disposal quarry at Fetter Hill.

Within the Central Area there yet remains quite appreciable areas and centres of population for which sewers have not yet been provided, notably parts of Berry Hill and Christchurch, Staunton, Newland, Redbrook and Clearwell.

During 1968 considerable progress was made in the preparation of a sewerage scheme for parts of Berry Hill and Christchurch areas. At the same time consideration was also given to the inclusion of parts of Broadwell not yet sewered. The total scheme comprised 8.344 miles of proposed sewers and four proposed low level sewage pumping stations, devised to cater for 305 dwellings at an average cost of £440 per dwelling. (Total cost for the scheme £134,200). Details of sewer lines, sections, manholes and pumping stations are now being worked up for early submission for approval.

So far as Staunton, Newland, Redbrook and Clearwell are concerned, these are to form further phases of proposed sewerage and inevitably will require extensions to the Sewage Disposal Works at Newland. This situation has been accepted by the Council and their Consultant Engineers have been charged with the duty of preparing the necessary schemes of extension.

During 1968, 37 properties were connected to the sewer.

(c) Southern Area

Until such time as the proposed Southern Area comprehensive sewerage scheme is achieved, it is necessary to continue making the best possible use of the existing small disposal works serving Council houses at Sling, Bream, Yorkley, Parkend and Whitecroft, though it is extremely difficult to maintain these small out-lying disposal works in an efficient state. The provision of the Southern Area sewerage scheme becomes more and more urgently necessary.

During the year a total of 19 samples of effluent were taken, as follows :

Sling	....	....	....	....	....	2
Bream	....	....	....	....	....	11
Yorkley	....	....	....	....	....	3
Parkend	....	....	....	....	....	1
Whitecroft	....	....	....	....	....	2

Of these 19 samples, nine proved to be unsatisfactory. The reason for this is the impossibility of getting at the works during the wet weather for desludging maintenance purposes.

On the matter of desludging, full loads of wet sludge were taken away from each of the works, as follows : Sling 44, Bream 113, Yorkley 36, Parkend 28, Whitecroft 54, making a total of 275.

This was disposed of in the Council's rented quarry at Fetter Hill.

In connection with the erection of new Council house dwellings at Whitecroft and pending the provision of a public sewerage system, a new small " Oxigest " sewage plant was provided.

Sewage Disposal Generally—All Areas

It will be seen from the foregoing notes that the main problems yet to overcome are the provision of sewerage schemes, both in the Southern Area and also in parts of the Central and Northern Areas not yet sewered ; and also to devise a solution to the problem of sludge disposal.

The 824 loads of wet sludge and the 180 loads of dried sludge disposed of in the quarry at Fetter Hill comprises a total of 1,236,000 gallons of wet sludge and 900 tons of dried sludge.

The problem of sludge dewatering was under consideration by the Council, and a demonstration of special dewatering equipment was given at the Newland Works.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. A. C. Luker, the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed :

Council Houses

Parish	1968	Pre-war	Post-war including 1968	Total
COLEFORD	—	166	281	447
ENGLISH BICKNOR	—	8	16	24
STAUNTON	—	—	11	11
NEWLAND				
Clearwell	—	10	18	28
Redbrook	—	34	—	34
LYDBROOK				
Lydbrook	—	52	14	66
Joys Green	—	20	139	159
WEST DEAN				
Berry Hill	—	50	82	132
Bream	—	80	141	221
Broadwell	40	64	84	148
Ellwood	4	6	20	26
Milkwall	—	6	38	44
Parkend	4	12	53	65
Pillowell	—	12	—	12
Viney Hill	—	—	—	—
Whitcroft	—	30	30	60
Yorkley	—	42	91	133
TOTALS	48	592	1,018	1,610

Of the forty-eight dwellings completed and occupied during 1968, ten were one bedroom type bungalows which were let to tenants of pensionable age.

In addition to the number of dwellings set out above, the Council own six other units of accommodation, all of which are occupied.

Private Houses

Ninety-three private houses were completed during the year making a total of 776 during the post-war period.

Applications for Council Accommodation

There were 350 applicants for Council houses, 85 of whom were pensioners asking for the tenancies of Old Persons Bungalows.

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